

Attending the Hesselbein Student Leadership Summit

by Yadav Prasad Bhattarai



My Name is Yadav Prasad Bhattarai, a Kathmandu based Education activist working as the president of Worldwide Nepalese Students' Organization –WNSO (<http://wnso.org>) and Civil Engineer by profession. I have over 5 years of organizational experience in coordinating projects and programs.

I was recently selected, as one of 50 top student leaders in the world, to participate in Hesselbein Student Leadership Summit

2014 at University of Pittsburgh (The Hesselbein Global academy for Student leadership and civic engagement) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA. The Hesselbein Global Academy for Student Leadership and Civic Engagement at the University of Pittsburgh aims to produce a cadre of experienced, ethical leaders equipped to address critical issues throughout the world. The Hesselbein Global Academy engages 50 top student leaders from across the world to focus on learning how to be effective, ethical, and innovative leaders.

The Hesselbein Student Leadership Summit drew together 50 of the top student leaders from around the world for an annual four-day summit at the University of Pittsburgh. Participants received training and were mentored by professionals from the fields of business, government, education, and not-for-profit. Participants worked alongside distinguished mentors who shared their expertise and provided dynamic leadership training. The students and mentors explored critical topics in leadership and undertook community engagement projects in collaboration with Pittsburgh-area organizations. My team was hosted by the western PA region of the American Red cross at their Pittsburgh center as part of Community Engagement Day.

Among the professional mentors/speakers at Hesselbein Summit 2014 were **Carol Ackerson** (Chief Financial and Operational Officer for the Girl Scouts—Arizona Cactus-Pine Council USA), **Anthony S. Fountain** (Retired senior vice president of Business Operation for URS Corporation USA), **Randal D. Fullhart** (Commandant of the Corps of Cadets at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University/U.S. Air Force, Major General, Retired), **Rick Gibbs** (Gas Operations Advisor for CONSOL Energy, Inc./U.S. Army, Brigadier General, Retired), **Rear Admiral James A. Helis** (Superintendent of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy), **Toshiko Inoue** (Financial Advisor with AXA Equitable Life Insurance Company New York), **Gregory Roberts** (Senior Advisor at American College Personnel Association Washington, DC), **Keith E. Schaefer** (Board of Trustees at University of Pittsburgh), **Sharon van Wyk** (Chief Operations Officer and Executive Vice President of the American Public Education Inc/charter member of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation), **Tony Ubertaccio** (Co-Founder of The 20 Mile March/Chief Operating Officer, Semper Avanti Co. New York) and **Dr.**

Christopher B. Howard (President of Hampden-Sydney College in Hampden Sydney Virginia/ one of the youngest college presidents in the United States).

We were also connected with Frances Hesselbein (Former CEO of Girls scout of USA & Founder of the Hesselbein Global Academy) via SKYPE.

Student Leadership Summit was an opportunity for me to explore my personal and professional potentialities. Exposure to a heterogeneous community of experts, students, educators and professionals enabled me to understand the issues of global concern from a diverse perspective. My participation also put me in contact with a global network of student communities, policymakers and experts. The knowledge and skills acquired from this visit had an immediate benefit to me personally and Nepalese society in a long run. Implementing the ideas gathered in the program in the future will be crucial for the betterment of educational networking and development of dynamic leadership.